

STATINTL

Sweden's Regime Battling Censure Over Spy Case

Government and Opposition Clash on Wennerstrom

By WERNER WISKARI
Special to The New York Times.

STOCKHOLM, May 28—Sweden's Social Democratic Government angrily fought Opposition attempts today to obtain Parliamentary censure of Defense Minister Sven O. M. Andersson for his handling of the Wennerstrom spy case.

Premier Tage Erlander said he and his Cabinet would resign unless Mr. Anderson won a vote of confidence.

The debate over why it took until June 20, 1963, to arrest Col. Stig Wennerstrom of the air force as a Soviet spy despite several years of suspicions ran into the night, with numerous acrimonious exchanges.

His voice rising at times to a shout, Mr. Andersson said the evidence had been too flimsy to remove Wennerstrom from his Foreign Ministry post as disarmament consultant in the spring of 1962. The Defense Minister's failure to act then is the crux of the Opposition's case.

Vote Is Expected

A vote on the issue is due tomorrow in the lower chamber of Parliament. Justice Minister Herman Kling said in an interview that the Government, aided by the expected defection of several Center party members and by either Communist support or abstention, had votes to spare.

But he added that the Opposition's attempt to exploit what he termed a national disaster had seriously damaged the traditional Swedish cooperation between the parties on major issues.

To the numerous disclosures of recent days of Wennerstrom's replies to police interrogation, Mr. Kling added new indications that the colonel had resorted to many lies.

Mr. Kling said Wennerstrom had begun by telling the police he was an agent for what he described as an anti-Moscow organization inside the Soviet Union.

Wennerstrom said next that he had spied on behalf of the United States against the So-



Camera Press-Fix

Swen O. M. Andersson

viet Union and then that he had spied for the Soviet Union against the United States. Later according to Mr. Kling, he broadened this to include espionage activities against the Atlantic alliance on Moscow's behalf.

Only then, upon being confronted with proof, did he admit having sold Swedish secrets to the Soviet Union.

An unusual vote arising from the Wennerstrom case was

Defense Minister Is Target —Premier Stands Firm

awaited in the upper chamber of Parliament. That chamber, which is said to have acted on a censure motion, is to vote on a recommendation by Parliament's Constitution Committee that the former Foreign Minister, Osten Unden, be censured.

The upper chamber is handling the matter because Mr. Unden is one of its members.

The Opposition has accused several members of the Government, including Premier Erlander and Justice Minister Kling, of negligence in the Wennerstrom case. But it decided its chances of obtaining censure were best if it concentrated on Defense Minister Andersson and Mr. Unden.

It did so within the Constitution Committee, which includes 10 Social Democrats and 10 members of the Opposition Liberal, Conservative and Center parties. Therefore, the vote on both Mr. Unden and Mr. Andersson taken last Thursday was a 10-to-10 tie.

Under the Swedish system, lots were drawn and the result was a recommendation of censure for Mr. Unden. Mr. Andersson, however, won clearance, at least from the committee. But the Opposition has been seeking a reversal of that in the second chamber.

STATINTL